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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/605,601

10/13/2003

Shyh-Dar Geeng

10058-US-PA

2600

31561

7590

08/25/2004

JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100
ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2
TAIPEI, 100
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,601

Applicant(s)

GEENG, SHYH-DAR

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims of the "Electronic Application" contain formatting errors (i.e., spacing between words), as well as a number of grammatical errors. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,941,615 to Ito et al. ("Ito" hereinafter). Referring to claim 1, Ito discloses a computer case (11) accommodating a host computer, the host computer inherently comprising at least one slot for installing input/output devices, wherein an data system is installed in a space (S) having at least one slot (see col. 1. lines 29-31), the computer case comprising a sliding mechanism (not numbered), a sliding panel (12) coupled to the computer case (11) through the sliding mechanism such that the sliding panel may sliding (*sic*) relative to the computer case between a first terminal position (see Fig. 5A) and a second terminal position (see Fig. 5D) such that the data system may be substantially enclosed inside the computer case when the sliding panel is at the first terminal position and a front panel (not shown) of the data system is exposed from the computer case to inherently facilitate a tray (not shown) of the data system from

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moving in and out of the data system when the sliding panel is at the second terminal position, and a driving device (14) mounted between the computer case and the sliding panel for moving the sliding panel relative to the computer case. See "Background of the Invention" and Figs. 1, 5 and 7.

Ito does not specifically disclose the host computer having at least a plurality of slots for installing input/output devices. It is well known, however, that a mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04; *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 CCPA 1960)). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a plurality of slots, so that a user can access more than one data-reading device in system.

Furthermore, although Ito does not specifically disclose an optical system in one of the slots, it is notoriously old and well known in the art of computer systems to utilize an optical system, e.g., CD-ROM, as an input/output device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize an optical system, e.g., CD-ROM, as an input/output device in the computer case of Ito, since the optical system would allow a user to utilize the latest software packages.

Referring to claim 2, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, wherein the sliding mechanism linking the sliding panel (12) with the computer case (11) comprises a sliding groove (12b) and a sliding element (41/43) that the sliding element (41/43) is inserted into the sliding groove (12b), wherein the sliding groove (12b) is formed on the computer case (11) and the sliding element (41/43) is attached to the sliding panel (12). See Fig. 5A, col. 10, lines 1-5.

Referring to claim 3, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, except for the sliding groove formed on the sliding panel and the sliding element is attached to the computer case. It is well known, however, to reverse working parts where needed (see MPEP 2144.04; *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955)). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a sliding groove on the sliding panel and to attach the sliding element to the computer case of Ito, since providing the sliding groove on the panel would allow for easy maintenance of the groove without having to remove it from the computer case.

Referring to claim 4, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, wherein the driving device (14) comprises an electric motor (29) with a gear wheel (22) that meshes with a rack (17) with gear teeth (17b) lining a surface of the rack, wherein the electric motor (29) is attached to the computer case (11) and the rack (17) is attached to the sliding panel (2), i.e., via shaft 26.

Referring to claim 5, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, except for the electric motor attached to the sliding panel and the rack attached to the computer case. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach electric motor to the sliding panel and attach the rack to the computer case, since it has been held that reversal of parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04; *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955)).

Referring to claim 9, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, further comprising a control mechanism (38b) for controlling movements of the sliding panel (12) and the tray (not shown) of the optical system. See col. 6, lines 5-9.

Referring to claims 10 and 11, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed. Although Ito does not specifically teach the movement of the tray of optical system, wherein the tray is moved out from the computer case after the sliding panel is switched from the position shown in Fig. 5A to the position shown Fig. 5D, and wherein the tray of the optical system is moved into the computer case before the sliding panel is switched from the position shown in Fig. 5D to the position shown in 5A, respectively, it is notoriously old and well known in the art of computer systems to move the tray as recited in the claim. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to move a tray, inherently disclosed in the input/output device of Ito, in and out of the computer case based on the position of the sliding panel, since moving the tray in and out after the panel is displaced from the closed position to an open position is required to access the CD-ROM or similar type of device.

Referring to claim 12, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, further comprising a sensing device (40) for monitoring a position of the tray so as to prevent jamming while the tray is moving. See col. 6, lines 10-18.

Referring to claim 13, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, including further comprising a control mechanism (38b) for controlling movements of the sliding panel (12) and the tray (not shown) of the optical system (see col. 6, lines 5-9), and to move the tray, inherently disclosed in the input/output device of Ito, in and out of the computer case based on the position of the sliding panel.

Referring to claim 14, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, wherein the sliding mechanism linking the sliding panel (12) with the computer case (11) comprises a sliding groove (12b) and a sliding element (41/43), such that the sliding element (41/43) is inserted into the

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sliding groove (12b), wherein the sliding groove (12b) is formed on the computer case (11) and the sliding element (41/43) is attached to the sliding panel (12). See Fig. 5A, col. 10, lines 1-5. t

Referring to claim 15, as mention above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a sliding groove on the sliding panel and to attach the sliding element to the computer case of Ito, since providing the sliding groove on the panel would allow for easy maintenance of the groove without having to remove it from the computer case.

Referring to claim 16, Ito discloses the computer case as claimed, wherein the driving device (14) comprises an electric motor (29) with a gear wheel (22) that meshes with a rack (17) with gear teeth (17b) lining a surface of the rack, wherein the electric motor (29) is attached to the computer case (11) and the rack (17) is attached to the sliding panel (2), i.e., via shaft 26.

Referring to claim 17, as mention above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach electric motor to the sliding panel and attach the rack to the computer case.

Claims 6-8 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito as applied to claim 1 and 13 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,227,518 to Sun.

Referring to claims 6 and 18, Ito discloses the computer as claimed, except for the back of the sliding panel having arc-shaped body such that the sliding panel slides along a circular arc relative to the computer case. Sun discloses a pivot base for a computer monitor (5), the monitor having a back sliding part or panel (23) that is arc-shaped body, such that the sliding panel slides along a circular arc (see Figs. 4-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the back of the sliding panel of Ito to include an

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arc-shaped portion, as taught by Sun, since the device of Sun would provide a smaller footprint for the panel of Ito, when the panel is in the open position for accessing the input/output devices of Ito.

Referring to claims 7 and 19, Ito in view of Sun disclose the computer case structure as claimed, further comprising a liquid crystal module (4) mounted on the sliding panel (12) for showing current operating states of the optical system or multimedia states playing by the host computer. See Fig. 6 and the corresponding specification of Ito.

Referring to claims 8 and 20, Ito in view of Sun discloses the computer case structure as claimed, except for the LCD module comprising a touch-sensitive LCD. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art of computer LCD screens to utilize touch-sensitive panels as a means for operating the computer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the LCD module of Ito to include a touch-sensitive panel, since this type of panel would allow users to operate the computer system of Ito, as modified, without the use of additional dials or push buttons.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 6,654,235 to Imsand discloses a portable workstation with rotatable LCD panel and U.S. Patent No. 4,657,316 to Hardt et al. disclose a viewing screen with a swiveling screen housing.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 23, 2004
aqe



ANATOLY VORTMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER